



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
LANSING

BRIAN CALLEY  
LT. GOVERNOR

**CONTACTS:**

[Sara Wurfel](#) or [Dave Murray](#), Governor's Office  
517-599-3470 or 517-449-8343

[Ron Leix](#), MI State Police Emergency Management  
& Homeland Security Division, 517-242-5631

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Sunday, January 5, 2014

## **Snyder urges caution as authorities monitor extreme weather conditions**

*State undergoing preparations, prepared to quickly take action if  
situation warrants*

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today said state and local authorities are actively monitoring and undergoing initial preparations regarding the dangerous winter weather conditions that have moved into Michigan, and are ready to assist communities if necessary. He also urged residents to exercise great caution to avoid injury and to monitor media reports for updates.

“The heavy snowfall and expected 20-year low subzero temperatures and high winds are creating – or have the potential to create – hazardous conditions statewide,” Snyder said. “We want everyone to be safe. Let’s all pull together by taking care of ourselves and each other, which includes checking in on friends and neighbors who may need our help. It’s times like this when Michiganders are at their best.

“State authorities have been closely and constantly monitoring this situation all weekend and are providing me with regular updates. They’re also sharing information with local emergency management officials, communities, school districts, county road commissions and facilities like hospitals and nursing homes across Michigan. The Michigan State Police has added troopers and road patrols, and the Michigan Department of Transportation has every available plow out to help with road conditions. We’re prepared to move quickly with any requests for local emergency assistance if warranted. I commend the MSP and our state and local emergency management teams for their professionalism during this challenging time, and urge residents to stay informed regarding the latest weather conditions and proper safety tips.”

Most disasters or emergencies are handled by local governments without state assistance. Local responders, volunteers and the private sector are the first to be involved. If the recovery efforts are beyond the ability of the community, it may request assistance through the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division of the Michigan State Police.

Basic cold weather safety tips include:

- Minimizing travel and staying off the roads if possible. If travel is necessary, keep a full tank of gas and an emergency preparedness kit in the vehicle.
- Staying indoors if possible. If you must go outside, weather protective gear such as a hat and gloves should be worn.

- Dressing in layers and keeping dry. Removing clothing if it gets damp or wet. Wet clothing makes you more prone to hypothermia.
- Watching for signs of frostbite, which include loss of feeling or pale appearance of fingers, toes or face.
- Checking on family, friends and neighbors who are at risk and may need additional assistance.
- Watching pets closely and keeping them indoors when possible. If outside, have a warm shelter area with unfrozen water.

Residents who need assistance or guidance are encouraged to call 211. For more information about being prepared before, during and after an emergency or disaster, go to the Michigan State Police emergency preparedness website at [www.michigan.gov/beprepared](http://www.michigan.gov/beprepared) or follow on Twitter at @MichEMHS or [www.twitter.com/MichEMHS](http://www.twitter.com/MichEMHS).

For road conditions, call or visit Michigan State Police's winter travel advisory hotline at 800-381-8477 or [www.michigan.gov/roadconditions](http://www.michigan.gov/roadconditions), or visit or follow the Michigan Department of Transportation's road updates at [www.Michigan.gov/drive](http://www.Michigan.gov/drive) or @MichiganDOT.

#####